

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A color management apparatus for converting supplied image data by using a lookup table of color characteristic data into output image data, said color management apparatus comprising:

a lookup table which is composed of characteristic points which are points indicating the relationship between supplied image data and output image data which are determined to be impossible to be interpolated ~~when by~~ a process for converting image data which is to be performed; and

image data converting means for converting supplied image data by using said lookup table composed of the characteristic points into output image data.

10. (Previously Presented) The color management apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising table development means for developing said lookup table into a multidimensional lookup table,

wherein said image data converting means uses the multidimensional lookup table developed by said table development means to convert supplied image data into output image data.

11. (Previously Presented) The color management apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said table development means develops said lookup table into said multidimensional lookup table in such a manner that all of the characteristic points of said lookup table composed of the characteristic points are contained.

12. (Previously Presented) The color management apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said table development means develops said lookup table into the multidimensional lookup table such that data corresponding to grid points of said multidimensional lookup table is

composed of output data of said lookup table and data of information of adjacent grid points for interpolating a portion between grid points.

13. (Currently Amended) The color management apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said multidimensional lookup table is a compressed multidimensional lookup table formed by compressing said multidimensional lookup table,

~~wherein~~where restoring means is provided, which restores said compressed multidimensional lookup table into said multidimensional lookup table, and

~~wherein~~where said image data converting means causes said restoring means to restore said compressed multidimensional lookup table and uses obtained multidimensional lookup table to convert supplied image data into output image data.

14. (Previously Presented) The color management apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:

table recording means for recording said multidimensional lookup table developed by said table development means in a memory; and

updating means for operating said table development means and said table recording means when said lookup table composed of the characteristic points has been updated to update said multidimensional lookup table and rewrite the updated multidimensional lookup table on said memory,

wherein said image data converting means uses said multidimensional lookup table recorded in said memory to convert supplied image data into output image data.

15. (Currently Amended) An image converting apparatus comprising:

a color management apparatus incorporating image data converging means which uses a lookup table of color characteristic data produced by a characteristic description apparatus to convert supplied image data into output image data and which has a structure that said lookup table is composed of characteristic points which are points indicating the relationship between supplied image data and output image data which are determined to be impossible to be

interpolated ~~when by~~ said image data converting means ~~performs~~when an image data converting process is performed; and

a storage portion for storing a plurality of color characteristic data items having different color characteristics;

wherein color characteristic data is selected in accordance with the characteristic of image data and selected color characteristic data is used by said color management apparatus to convert supplied image data into output image data.

16. (Currently Amended) A color correction method structured such that a multidimensional lookup table is used to convert a supplied image signal into an output image signal, said color correction method comprising the steps of:

producing a lookup table composed of characteristic points which are points indicating the relationship between input color image signals and output color image signals which are determined to be impossible to be interpolated by~~developed in~~ a table development process;

performing table development process such that said lookup table composed of the characteristic points is developed into a multidimensional lookup table; and

converting supplied image signal into an output image signal by using said multidimensional lookup table obtained by developing said lookup table composed of the characteristic points.

17. (New) A color management apparatus for converting supplied image data into output image data using color characteristic data, said color management apparatus comprising:

a separator for separating image format data into the supplied image data and color characteristic data, wherein the color characteristic data includes:

a lookup table composed of characteristic points which are points indicating the relationship between supplied image data and output image data which are determined to be impossible to be interpolated by a table development method which is to be performed; and

an identifier for identifying a table development method;

table development means for developing said lookup table into a multidimensional lookup table; and

image data converting means which uses the multidimensional lookup table developed by said table development means to convert supplied image data into output image data.